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SUGGESTIONS FOR WHAT IS REQUIRED IN BUILDING A NURSES' HOME

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(Continued from page 478)

Dining-Room.—The dining-room should be an especially bright, attractive room, and large enough for any contemplated increase.

Round tables are much more attractive than the oblong ones, but take up more space; this, too, must be borne in mind in the original plans. These tables would also require additional service.

Kitchen Department.—The kitchen should be arranged with a view to saving steps, and also so located that there will be no unnecessary passing through. The work table of iron should have racks over it on which all cooking utensils are hung; the table supplied with drawers and lower shelf, thus making everything conveniently within reach.

The scullery should be reached by a separate door, thus avoiding the carrying of vegetables, etc., through the kitchen. This room should be equipped with running water, sink, table, butcher's bench and block.

The refrigerator could be placed in this room and should be arranged so that it can be filled from the outside. If it is not possible to have an outside door, it may be so arranged that it can be filled through a window.

Off this room might be located the store room, where staple groceries are kept. This should be fitted up with shelves—the lower one being a sufficient distance from the ground to allow of barrels being placed under it.

The serving-room should be located between the kitchen and dining-room, if the kitchen is on the first floor, and should be equipped with sinks and running water, a dish washer for washing and sterilizing dishes, steam table, dressers, tea and coffee urns. There should be two doors between this room and the dining-room, opening in different directions.

A lavatory and toilet should be located conveniently near for those who work in the kitchen, and provision made for the care of brooms, pails, mops, etc.

Basement.—If the basement be excavated, the kitchen department with store room would probably be located here.



PHOTO BY
E. F. POLEY N.Y.

DINING-ROOM.

If the question of ground were not an important one it would be better to have the kitchen on the first floor, as suggested, and excavate only a portion of the basement.

Trunk Room.—A trunk room fitted with racks ought to be located directly beside the elevator. These racks ought to be so arranged that the nurses can get at their trunks without a great deal of trouble. A movable platform and steps on rollers would make this possible. Avoid having steam pipes or machinery in this room.

A room for assorting soiled linen should also be located near the elevator.

Rooms for coal and wood should be provided.

Vegetable Room.—In planning the vegetable room, good ventilation is most important, and steam pipes which cannot be turned off must be avoided.

Toilet and Lavatory for Male Employees.—If the male employees sleep in the home their quarters would be located in the basement, but even though they do not sleep in the basement, lavatory and toilet facilities must be arranged.

In addition to these rooms a large store room should be provided either in the basement or attic. This room would be used for storing screens, awnings, lawn settees, etc. It would also be used for drying articles washed by nurses, kitchen towels, and any laundry work done by employees.

Employees' Quarters.—Accommodations for help are sometimes neglected altogether, and they not infrequently are given most unsuitable quarters. Good accommodations for the employees are certainly a good investment, and will materially affect the class of help and the service which will be rendered. The attic floor will give light, airy rooms, and will take them entirely away from the work of the day.

A single room with a bath, for the matron, or perhaps a double suite and bath, which the clerk may share, should be provided. These may be arranged in a separate wing, or at one end of the hall somewhat apart from the others.

There should be single rooms for the seamstress, or others doing special work, and double rooms for other employees, also a comfortable sitting-room, where they may rest, read, or visit when off duty.

A suitable number of bath-tubs, lavatory and toilet facilities, also a wash-tub where they can do a certain amount of laundry work, should be provided.

Gymnasium and Swimming Pool.—A gymnasium and swimming pool where light exercises could be taken would be quite a factor in

the general health of the nurses. The swimming pool would be on the ground floor, and a portion of a wing in the attic could be used for the gymnasium.

Furnishing.—We would suggest plain, substantial furniture, which will always be in good style and will look well even after good hard wear. For the bedrooms perhaps oak, with plain good hardware, and an iron bedstead.

The kind of furniture could be varied in the general living rooms.

It is economy to buy good rugs, even though it may necessitate buying only a few at a time.

Steam Heating, Painting, etc.—Steam connections ought to be made early, and steam turned on for several weeks before the building is occupied. If the walls are painted before opening the building, a certain amount of heat ought to be turned on during the time of painting, if in the winter months, otherwise the damp walls may practically ruin the paint.

When the shade of paint has been decided on, always have a sample made that you can compare with the work when finished. If you have only the sample on the wall, and that is covered, should the work be unsatisfactory you have no proof that it is not according to sample.

We would suggest soft, restful tints for all bedrooms, and deeper tints for the general living rooms. A nice variety is obtained by papering the suites, but for general living rooms or bedrooms it would not be economical and perhaps not sanitary.

Light.—Where it is necessary to get permission from the Department of Lighting to install a certain number and certain kinds of lighting chandeliers, this should be taken into consideration early, or there may be delay about getting light. The lights leading to fire escapes and the stair lights should be on individual switches, so that the other lights may be turned off without affecting them.

Fire Equipment.—Protection against fire is important in every home, and especially in a public or large home. We should see that the best fire equipment is installed, that the fire escapes are wide enough with a sufficiently high hand rail, so there will be little danger of panic in case of fire.

Floors.—The floors should not be finished until practically all the other work is done; if they are finished too early, they are likely to be considerably defaced by the various workmen. A hard floor, perhaps, maple, with a good finish should always be insisted upon.

Vacuum Cleaning System.—While there is considerable initial ex-

pense in installing the vacuum cleaning system, it reduces the amount of labor required to keep the home in order, and where there are heavy rugs and heavy carpet runners in the halls, it is quite important that it be given consideration.

Location and Grounds.—If there be choice of a location, the pleasantest one should always be chosen. The grounds should be as spacious as possible, with an abundance of lawn settees, tennis courts, croquet grounds, and good roads or walks where the nurses can exercise even in inclement weather.

After spending nine or ten hours a day in the wards over sick patients, the out-of-door life is most essential, and anything which will attract the nurse out of doors will be a good investment, and will pay in the better health and the better work of the nurses.

ONE FACTOR IN THE HOSPITAL LIFE OF THE PRIVATE PATIENT *

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THE object in these few remarks is to bring before you for discussion one factor concerning the hospital life of the private patient.

I believe that it is important, because it has to do with keeping the patients contented while in the hospital, and if we can accomplish this they will remain until well, and the hospital not only prospers financially, but earns a good reputation, thus making it less difficult to induce other patients to go there. As a business proposition this is of utmost importance to the hospital, and to the physicians and surgeons a real necessity.

Some time ago my attention was called to this particular phase of hospital management by noticing very decided differences in the attitude of private room patients in each of several institutions. In the case of two hospitals in particular, this difference was most marked.

In one of these, the private room patients remained until they were thoroughly convalescent, a period seldom less than three weeks, and in drainage cases often several weeks longer. During all this time the patients were contented, they seldom asked to go home before they

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